



TIFFANY IRA HUANG—THE TECH

Yuri Lin G and Esther Jang sing the Pokémon theme song to kick off the Toons' farewell concert for their graduating seniors in 10-250 last Saturday.

Occupy enthralled world of academia

Social scientists study protests through survey data, oral history

By Jennifer Schuessler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

If surveys of Occupy Wall Street supporters conducted in the fall still hold true, the crowds of protesters expected to turn out Tuesday for May Day events across the country will likely skew male, young, white, college-educated, underpaid and thoroughly disgusted with the U.S. political system.

But the crowds may also be notably heavy on another demographic cohort: notebook-wielding social scientists hoping to get a more precise under-

standing of the nebulously organized individuals marching under the banner "We are the 99 percent."

Academics across the country have embraced the movement since it emerged in September, organizing classes, publishing reams of commentary and issuing calls to "occupy" not just Wall Street but also sociology, anthropology, history, philosophy or the entire "academic vampire squid" itself, as a poster for a session at the recent annual meeting of the International Studies Association put it.

A smaller number have also been

turning to a more difficult task: turning a sprawling movement into hard — and publishable — data.

"This thing just erupted so quickly," said Alex S. Vitale, a sociologist at Brooklyn College who studies the policing of demonstrations. "It's almost overwhelming to deal with all the information that's out there."

Vitale is finishing a 10-city study of interactions between protesters and the police since fall, which he said showed a lack of overall "militarization" in po-

Occupy, Page 6

4.75% increase in grad stipend

Ten month collaboration between GSC and Institute

By Derek Chang
NEWS EDITOR

Graduate stipends will be increasing by 4.75 percent for the 2012-2013 school year. The recommended yearly stipend for research assistants will be \$30,888 at the doctoral level, and \$28,236 at the Master's level. Graduate teaching assistants will receive \$31,644.

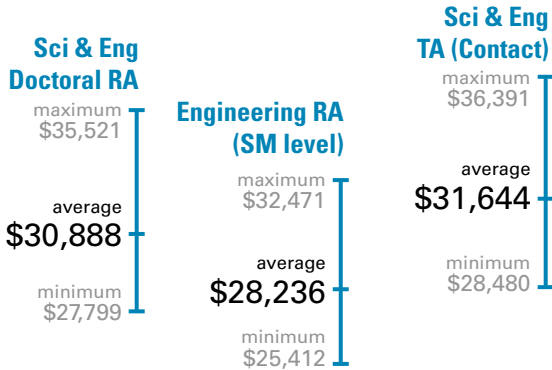
The Graduate Student Council (GSC) prepares a cost-of-living survey every four years, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE). A survey about cost-of-living expenses was sent out to graduate students in November 2011 with a 53 percent response rate. The GSC's Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Cost of Living subcommittee then compared the results with inflation statistics to forecast necessary stipends for graduate students.

"Our goal is for stipend increases to match inflation, so that purchasing power stays constant," said Brian Spatocco G, President-Elect of the GSC and co-chair of the HCA Cost of Living team. Spatocco also noted that the amount of work done to achieve this was "equivalent to an entire Master's thesis."

The results of the survey showed that the "buckets," or areas of expenditure, with the biggest cost of living increases were transportation (8.98 percent), utilities (7.5 percent), and off-campus rent (7.5 percent). On-campus housing rates increased 3.5 percent this year. Rent inflation was high this year

Grad stipend, Page 10

2013 annual graduate student stipend



IN SHORT

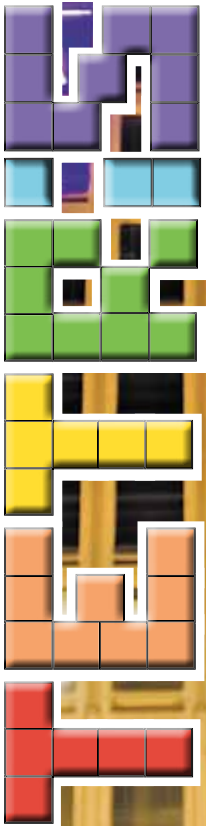
Pre-registration for summer and fall 2012 classes opens today at 9 a.m. The deadline to pre-register is May 31, but pre-register for fall classes by May 30 to avoid paying a \$50 late fee!

The results of the summer housing lottery come out today! The deadline to cancel the assignment is May 11, 2012, or pay a \$200 fine.

The deadline to apply to the MIT Founders' Skills Accelerator is Wednesday, May 2. Apply at <http://entrepreneurship.mit.edu/fsa> to work on your startup this summer!

Course 3 Professor Craig Carter won first place in APO's annual Big Screw Competition. He raised a total of \$164.20 for Camp Kesem. Overall, the fundraiser raised roughly \$550.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.



On the
Green
Building
see more pg 8



JOHN A. HAWKINSON—THE TECH

This photo is left-right reversed: Workers from Community Builders Cooperative started to renovate Toscanini's Ice Cream in Central Square yesterday. The renovations will be done and the store reopened on Wednesday evening said Gus Rancatore, owner of Tosci's. A centerpiece of new store will be a lamp over the Big Table designed by S. Adam Simha '88

and Irene Ferri.

Tosci's plans to debut a Nyan Cat flavor this weekend, based on last year's Internet meme, in honor of ROFLcon. It will consist of "pieces of cherry Pop Tart in a coconut sorbet, with brightly colored anise candies called Mukhwas," Rancatore said. "Mukhwas are the small candies Indian restaurants offer to departing diners."

THE INSTITUTE NEEDS OVERSIGHT

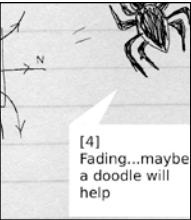
How the Corporation is failing us, and how to fix it. **OPINION, p. 5**

REFLECTIONS ON A RALLY

Impressions from the women's rights rally by City Hall. **OPINION, p. 4**

MEN'S TENNIS WINS

The team is on track to defend their NEWMAC title. **SPORTS, p. 15**



THE SLEEPOMETER

Just how tired are you during class?
FUN, p. 12

HOW TO GET HELP

A beginner's guide to navigating mental health.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 14

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Fixing MIT's failures in governance

How the Institute must do better

By Barun Singh

I am deeply concerned by the management and governance of MIT. We need to reform how MIT makes decisions and how the Corporation oversees the President.

The two student suicides that occurred this academic year provided MIT with an urgent imperative to meaningfully examine its policies and decision-making practices. Instead of learning from past mistakes, however, the administration has doubled-down, insisting that it is performing well even in the domain of student life and support services. The Corporation, ostensibly charged with overseeing the administration, has simply accepted these assertions as fact, despite ample evidence to the contrary.

I have been a member of the MIT Corporation for the past five years, and a member of the MIT community for over a decade. During my time here, I have seen our campus undergo two dramatic transformations that run counter to what we used to think of as the MIT culture.

First, the current administration has exercised a greater degree of top-down decision-making than any in recent history. This has led to significant, and understandable, frustration among faculty, staff and students alike, who have been dismissed with superficial pretences of involvement.

Second, we have as an institution increasingly concerned ourselves with our image as opposed to our substance. It is important to communicate our activities to the world, but the degree of strategic emphasis this administration has placed on PR and marketing is troubling, and unbecoming of the finest academic institution in the world.

Effect on student life

These broad shifts have had a particularly harsh effect on that thing we often call “community” — the sense of belonging, support, and engagement that allows individuals to feel like this is their home, and they have the power to shape its future along with their own. I believe that this aspect of our culture has suffered a sharp decline over the course of this administration, and numerous conversations over the past few years with a diverse selection of students, faculty, staff, and alums have bolstered this sense. Members of the Corporation who are actively engaged on campus, and have personally seen far more of MIT’s history than I have, tell me that the situation is the worst it has been in decades.

To wit, I have yet to find even one member of the community, outside of the senior administration, who believes that the Division of Student Life is being run in a manner that reflects an understanding of the MIT culture. Many if not most of the changes that Chris Colombo has instituted in his department, with President Hockfield's encouragement, have actively harmed the MIT student body. The inability of the administration to provide acceptable reasoning for policies that face nearly universal disagreement is not an acceptable state of affairs.

Examples of mismanagement over the past few years are plenty. Student Support Services has been gutted, and well-respected individuals who have dedicated their careers and spirit to MIT were summarily dismissed or disregarded. We have eliminated the ability for students to walk in to MIT Medical at any time of night. We have gotten rid of Nightline — a service run by student volunteers that, for over 30 years, was the strongest symbol of students helping each other through times of crisis that this campus has known. The symbolic value alone of these services far outweighs the miniscule costs of their operations. How can we possibly justify these cutbacks while simultaneously throwing lavish PR parties to celebrate MIT's 150th birthday? What message do we send to our community when our actions show that fireworks are more important to us than student support?

Role of the Corporation

Ultimate fiduciary responsibility for ensuring that MIT is meeting its mission rests with the Corporation. It is a core component of this mission that we foster the growth and education of our students by creating a healthy environment for them to maximally fulfill their positive potential. By failing in the domain of student support, allowing our sense of community be damaged, and ignoring the broken decision-making processes that have led to these results, MIT, and thus the Corporation, is failing to meet its mission.

I have great respect for individual members of the Corporation and for its leadership, but I believe that the organization has fundamental structural flaws. Even the most intelligent and well-meaning individuals are prone to a unique dysfunction that befalls collectives: groupthink. It is simply easier to "go along to get along." The majority of a quarterly Corporation meeting is often more self-congratulation than critical examination, wherein Corporation members are a captive

audience to the President's performance. It is a dangerous thing to believe your own PR, and this needs to change.

The true work of the Corporation is done through its committees. The Executive Committee makes decisions regarding the campus as a whole, and is most directly responsible for overseeing the President specifically. This committee is, amazingly, chaired by the President herself. This inherent conflict of interest makes it all but impossible for the Corporation to properly fulfil its responsibilities, and should be eliminated.

Visiting committees are responsible for oversight of individual departments and divisions within MIT. I was shocked to hear the report of the Visiting Committee for the Division of Student Life at the most recent Corporation meeting. Instead of critical assessment — which is the norm for visiting committees overseeing academic departments — the official committee report simply parroted the administration's stance. Its conclusions were obvious untenable: it is impossible that we could not be doing more in the domain of student support when we had more and better programs in place only a few years ago; it is impossible that the division is well managed when every single constituency it affects believes that its policies are destructive. In addition, the report failed to include dissenting assessments from committee members. The Corporation must seriously enhance its standards of oversight, or risk losing its credibility as an effective body.

I pointedly raised my concerns at the recent Corporation meeting, just as I have in previous meetings. Having spoken to the Chairman of the Corporation as well as other lifelong and term members, I am confident that there are other members of the board who share the concerns I have raised above, regarding both the management of MIT and our governance systems.

Where students fit in

So why raise these issues in a public forum, and why now?

Large organizations — public or private, for profit or not — are challenging to govern, and MIT is no exception. Making substantial changes is difficult, even when the leadership wishes to do so. It requires fighting against entrenched power structures and managing the political climate appropriately. Public pressure is often necessary to force such organizations to overcome their inertia. At an academic institution, this means pres-

sure from students and faculty.

In the coming months, MIT will elect a new president. This presents a vital opportunity to reset the mode of interaction so that we might honor an ethos that allows MIT to truly shine. This is exactly the time when the community ought to become organized and vocalize the fundamental changes that are needed.

I submit that if MIT students are interested in preserving the culture that has made this campus so vibrant, the student body must:

- Demand greater competence and relevance from your student governments. Organized, principled, well-executed advocacy from these groups can have tremendous impact, and the lack thereof makes it nearly impossible for forward movement. When student governments can find nothing better to do than throw large parties on the graduate side, and face repeated resignations on the undergraduate side, there is a problem.

- **Speak up.** It is not somebody else's job to stand up for what you believe in. Those who are unwilling to speak up have little authority to complain, and there are ample opportunities for any student who believes MIT should be functioning better to help it do so: become active in student government bodies, write opinion pieces, or find other ways to be heard.

- **Become engaged in the Corporation:** The Corporation holds an election among the graduating class and recent alums to elect a new member to the board every year. This is how I was elected to serve. The recent alum members serve a vital function, providing a point of view that is otherwise unheard. Voting to elect the next member is open now: if you are graduating this year or are an alum from the past two years, please vote. If you are a current student, please nominate individuals for the ballot and become engaged when it is your turn.

MIT is an amazing and inspiring place to be a part of. Every institution fumbles, and the best ones are able to correct themselves in time to grow stronger. We should all work to see that MIT is able to understand its weaknesses, regain its footing, and establish itself firmly as the world's leading example of what an academic institution should be.

Barun Singh ENG '06, is a recent-graduate member of the MIT Corporation, former president of the Graduate Student Council, and a former Tech opinion editor.

Western media has distorted the real Russia

Serious progress still needs to be made with the Russian middle class

Putin, from Page 4

despite hundreds of arrests reported in several cities, opposition leaders have vowed to resume their demonstrations in the near future.

But my goal here is to draw attention to the naïve, misplaced, and inflated U.S. and Western media's bias in their coverage of signs of democracy in Russian society (and perhaps I could tentatively throw in those of a few countries of the former Soviet Union such as Ukraine and Belarus). The Russian system seems to me still too encrusted in its old ways to say so optimistically that it has changed fully and for the long-term. While there is certainly beauty in the strategy of envisioning what one wishes for and

seeking signs of it, the media should still report facts and the truth, and not yield to the temptation of inflating what it wants to see — and what Washington and Brussels want to hear.

A corollary of such hasty and optimistic appraisals of the protests and situation within Russian civil society in general is that they can lead to a quick dismissal of how much progress still needs to be made, and how serious the obstacles that lie in people's paths are.

Perhaps eager to get on with business, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton appeared to commit that very mistake by brushing under the carpet widespread alleged irregularities in the presidential election and declaring Putin the “clear winner,”

with whom the United States is now “ready to work with,” *The Los Angeles Times* reported. Russian human rights activists denounced those comments as an insult to their hard work and concerns.

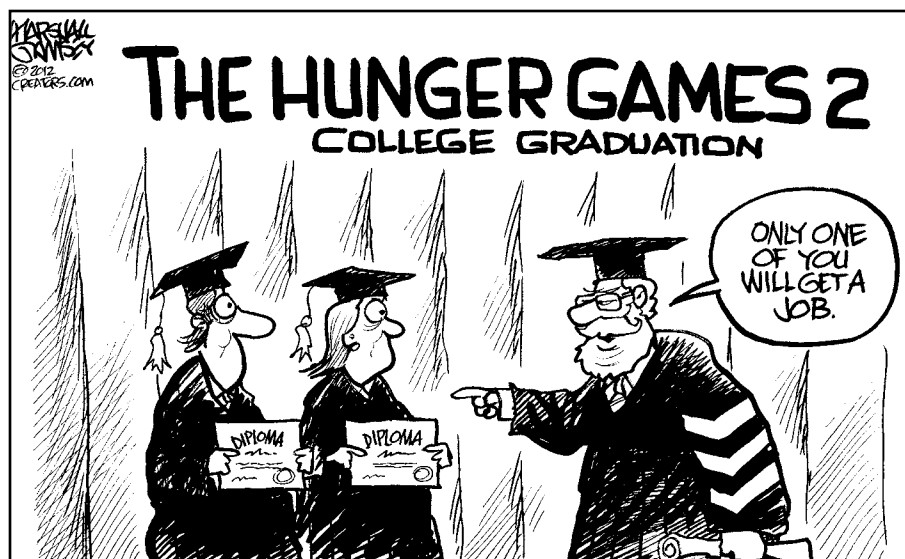
In any case, their indignation is certainly an encouraging sign that at least some segments of Russian society are more in touch with reality and pro-active than rosy-eyed Western analysts or the older generations who are often nostalgic about the more stable days under Communism. But even some of the younger generation have shown clear signs of fatalistic apathy when it comes to politics and bringing change.

At least some American news organizations have started to acknowledge the premature protest fatigue among Russian

activists, following Russian media reports and a VTsIOM poll citing the shrinking size of the anti-Putin rallies soon after the election results.

But in a country where the authorities and the public are often at loggerheads as to the honesty of electoral proceedings and the veracity of the results — as in this latter presidential one, which included an allegedly foiled assassination attempt on Putin that is believed to be concocted by his team as a ruse to garner support for his election — it is very hard to discern facts from fiction, and interpret statistics and sentiments accurately.

This article is the fifth in a series on Russia's presidential election, popular street protests, and Putin's new presidency.



Researchers seek to understand dynamics of movement and psychology of protestors

lice response in major cities. (New York is an exception, said Vitale, who organized a demonstration against police tactics in Zuccotti Park in the fall but said he did not consider himself part of the Occupy movement.) Other researchers are doing ethnographic studies, crunching survey data, recording oral histories and analyzing media by and about the movement, all at lightning speed compared with the usual pace of scholarship.

"Academics are used to taking forever, but we don't have to," said Theda Skocpol, a sociologist at Harvard and author, with Vanessa Williamson, of *"The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism,"* a study of Occupy's right-wing counterpart published in January.

That book, which combines in-depth interviews with quantitative analysis of the Tea Party movement, is a model for the kind of ambitious

work that could emerge in studies of the Occupy movement, some social scientists say. But getting a handle on Occupy, with its amorphous structure and aims, could be more challenging, Skocpol said.

"The Tea Party from the beginning saw themselves as leveraging and changing the Republican Party, while the Occupy people are much more ambivalent," she said. "That makes them harder to pin down."

Some researchers also say that the sympathy many academics feel for the movement risks undermining objective research.

Edward Maguire, a criminologist at American University who is leading a study of attitudes toward the police and the law among Occupy protesters in six cities, cited an incident in which one research assistant at a demonstration in Washington in March “handed in her ID, turned in her clipboard and within minutes got arrested.”

“Part of where our research is

heading is making recommendations to police departments," he said. "When they look at our research, I want them to trust it. Having people involved in the movement wouldn't work for us."

Yet scholars in disciplines with a long tradition of participant-observer research say that direct involvement can offer a better understanding of a movement's internal dynamics.

“Everybody I know doing this is an activist of some sort” said Jeffrey Juris, an associate professor of anthropology at Northeastern University who is organizing strategy workshops for Occupy Boston while also studying it. “But Occupy is so open and broad-based, it doesn’t take much to consider yourself an activist.”

Juris and other activist scholars started an online clearinghouse called Occupy Research in the fall to share research methods, tools and data sets. So far the network has hosted two “hackathons” using

data gathered on the site as well as facilitated collaborative research like an accounting of Occupy encampments worldwide and analyses of Occupy-related Twitter posts.

But that kind of research, however valuable, is “low-hanging fruit,” said Todd Gitlin, a professor of sociology and communications at Columbia and the author of “Occupy Nation,” a sympathetic account of the movement published this week as an e-book. The most pressing unanswered question, he said, doesn’t concern Occupy’s activist core but the nature of what he called “the outer movement,” those people who may have showed up for big marches but don’t attend general assemblies or other meetings.

"They are the political means by which the movement grows," Gitlin said. "And there are a lot more of them."

In the fall, the organizers in New York asked Hector Cordero-Guzman, a sociologist at Baruch College, to devise an online survey,

which was then posted at occupy-wallst.org. The first wave of results, published in October, is widely credited with cementing the picture of the movement as representing what Cordero-Guzman, in an interview, called “a decent cross-section of the population.”

"This wasn't just young single people with nothing to do at age 22," he said. "These were people who had done all the right things and things weren't working out for them so well."

Many scholars, however, question the value of Internet surveys, which can skew toward respondents who are more committed and more comfortable with technology. "I think it's terrific that he did it, and did it so quickly," said Ruth Milkman, a sociologist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York who is planning a randomized survey of Occupy participants. "But it's not representative. No one quite knows who is excluded."

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Solution to Crossword

from page 12

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<http://bit.ly/techhack2012>

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The 'holy grail' of hacks

The construction of one of the most anticipated hacks of all time

By Jessica J. Pourian
EDITOR IN CHIEF

153 windows, 153 pixels. Two weekends ago, the front of the Green Building lit up in a colorful display of the popular puzzler *Tetris*. The 17x9 pixel screen spanned over 80 by 250 feet — making it the second largest screen in the nation. Appearing mysteriously on Friday night, the *Tetris* hack was the culmination of over four and a half years of work by an undisclosed number of hackers. With the completion of the hack came the conclusion of a dream; the idea of transforming Building 54 into a working game of *Tetris* has been a fantasy of hackers for decades.

"The point was to do something that was marked as impossible," one of the hackers said to *The Tech* this Sunday.

The Green Building, whose front measures over 100 by 295 feet, might have

been host to the largest game of *Tetris* ever played in the United States.

The Tech had the opportunity to sit with three of the hackers who made it all possible. While they refused to disclose their identity or mention which hacking group they were a part of, they did indicate that their team was much larger than three people and covered a range of courses and class years.

Birth of a hack

The idea of doing Green Building *Tetris* has been around since the 80s when the game was first invented, and the inception of this hack started just over four years ago.

"Four years ago, we were like, 'let's just freaking do it,'" said one of the hackers. Activity happened in bursts; the project would lay dormant until someone would "get an itch" to work on it again.

One of the biggest challenges in the engineering process was how to properly illuminate the entire window from a single spot. The device needed to be small enough to not annoy the room's occupant, but powerful enough to uniformly light the window. Each window on the Green Building is about eight feet tall by six feet wide, and formed one pixel of the entire display. Every window was outfitted with a custom built LED board that was wirelessly controlled.

"It wouldn't have been possible to run wires to put everything together," a hacker said, "From our perspective; this was the only way you could possibly build it."

The units used consisted of 2-layer aluminum-core printed circuit boards housed in an aluminum casing. To cut costs, the hackers used standard aluminum bar stock which was CNC machined to create custom one-piece housings. The devices all have 13 LEDs on them, each rated for 3 watts. The hackers went through five differ-

ent prototypes before settling on the final version.

One of the advantages of the design was its heat dissipation. "They are thermally linked to the window sill," said a hacker, "Turns out we don't actually run them that hot, ever. If you were to run them [to full capacity], it would still only be warm to the touch."

The housing for each board was also specially designed for the wireless antennae, which communicated with a computer held in the podium where players controlled the game.

"The wireless itself is...the cheapest solution that would work for this application," he said, "This was the minimum you could get away with and it would still work."

With the design finalized, the time came to implement the hack. The team worked for two months nonstop.

"We worked every night from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.," he said, "I'm not kidding you, every night for like two months."

'The more you can get prefrosh interested in hacks, the more likely you get more interesting prefrosh to come to MIT.'

Anonymous
TETRIS HACKER

The fruit of their efforts was the patriotic display that appeared on the Green Building on 9/11. The flag, which went up in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of September 11, is the same LED system that was used for the *Tetris* Hack.

The reaction to the memorial hack was disappointing.

"People thought they were Christmas tree lights," a hacker said, also mentioning that the response on the internet had been surprisingly slow. But they did not lose heart — with the system fully installed for 9/11, the hackers now had the ability to use it more easily for other things. They were responsible for the purple ribbon that appeared on the building in honor of Relay for Life in March. *Tetris* was the original goal of the project, and they set their sights on CPW for its premiere.

"It's a time when people want to put up hacks," one of the hackers explained. "The more you can get prefrosh interested in hacks, the more likely you get more interesting prefrosh to come to MIT."

"You have the most audience for CPW," he added, "Everybody is up late."

Tetris in action

When the hack finally went live, the Twitterverse and Facebook exploded with photos of the event, with dozens of MIT students boasting about seeing the coolest hack ever. A number of Boston media reported on the event, and the internet carried the story even further. For every night that the hack was up, the podium where one could play the game was swarmed with impressed prefrosh and parents, all vying for their turn at the largest *Tetris* game they'd ever seen. Students laughed about how their mistakes playing the game were broadcast across the river to all of Boston, and each tetris was met with cheers and applause from those standing around.

Asked how they felt when the *Tetris* hack finally went live Friday night?

"It was freaking awesome," said one of the hackers.

"Watching it from across the river is pretty freaking sweet," added another.

"Honestly, I think the thing that was more cool was people walking down the

Mass Ave. bridge saw it and came to see the actual thing," said a hacker. Another pointed out the positive response on the internet as being encouraging.

The future

The hackers have made arrangements with EAPS (Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary sciences); the residents of Building 54, to keep the hack installed permanently so future generations can use the Green Building's "screen."

"In general, EAPS is supportive," said a hacker. "They think it's difficult to manage, but it's still pretty cool. People whose windows they are in actually all have varied opinions."

To prevent occupants from getting angry with the hack, each unit has a button that will disable the light for a few hours. "Part of the goal is public relations," explained one of the hackers, "It's just communication."

"We don't want hurt feelings in any way."

Open source

In the near future, hackers have a few ideas for things to put on the building, though they declined to state exactly what they had in mind.

More excitingly, however, is the plan to release the software used to create the *Tetris* game on the internet so people can try and make their own hack that could run on the building.

"Everything would still go through us to make sure it's vetted and ok with us," one of the hackers said, "We would like to open this up to a general audience."

"It also means less work for us," he laughed, "If someone develops something that's really neat...that's cool and we'll do that. It's interesting to see what people will do with the design challenge of the low resolution display. It's only 17x9. It's a bit of a challenge."

Those interested in creating something for the Green Building display can find the software online at <https://github.com/mitrisdev/d54/>.



CHRIS PENTACOFF

In September, hackers lit up the Green Building in a patriotic display of an American flag in honor of 9/11. The flag was the first use of the LED system that was later featured in the *Tetris* hack.



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

In March, the same LED arrays were used to display a purple ribbon in recognition of Relay for Life.



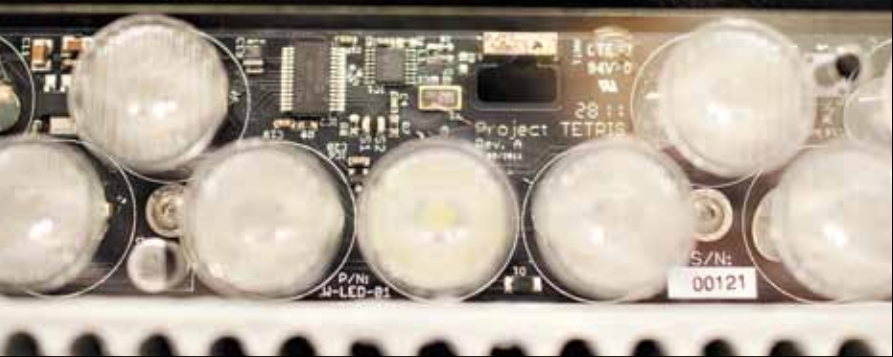
GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

The status LED on this pixel glows green, indicating its readiness to turn on at the figurative flip of a switch. Each pixel features a button labeled "sleep" which, according to an e-mail sent to the EAPS department, will disable the pixel for three hours if the office occupant is bothered by the light and pushes it.



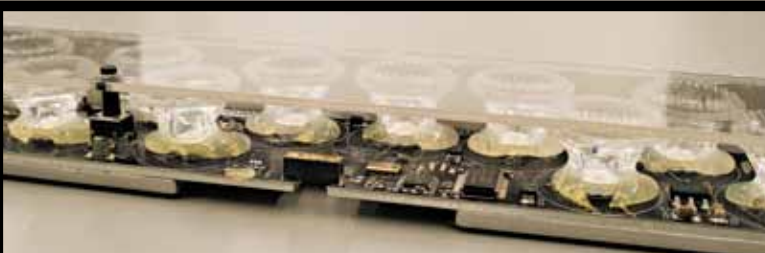
GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

Each pixel in the display featured the phrase "WHO did this?" printed on the corner of the circuit board.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

A close up view of board number 121. Of note is the antenna at the top of the image; each pixel is independently controlled via wireless link. The larger black IC is a PIC24FJ32GA — an inexpensive micro controller similar to those found in the popular Arduino boards.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

Under the protective plexiglass cover, each device features 13 LEDs. Each pixel has a ridged plastic cover to direct the light up toward the window rather than back into the room.



CHRIS PENTACOFF

A woman plays *Tetris* on the display on the Green Building during Campus Preview Weekend.



CHRIS PENTACOFF

Students and prefrosh alike were able to play a fully functional game of *Tetris* on the Green Building over Campus Preview Weekend. Hackers used the already installed LED arrays to light up the windows with a variety of colors for the super-sized video game.

GSC committee performs in-depth rent analysis

Survey shows graduate students face rise in transportation, utilities and housing costs

Grad stipend, from Page 1

due to low vacancy rates in Cambridge, which Spatocco noted were “lower than in Manhattan.”

“Low supply leads to high demand,” said Spatocco, “and high rates are likely to continue.”

Consumer price index (CPI) inflation numbers from the federal government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics were used to examine inflation

for the buckets. To analyze rent inflation, however, Spatocco said that the Cost of Living team did not use the CPI data, but performed its own analysis instead.

“Housing in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville is expensive and subject to high inflation,” Spatocco said. “We concluded that annual CPI data would not work for rent. Instead, we did an in-depth rent analysis, which was worth it because two-thirds of

grad students live off campus.”

Spatocco noted that rent accounts for about 50 percent of grad student expenses. Rent analysis was done using “hyperlocal data” aggregated by the off-campus housing office at MIT. For cross-checking, these numbers were compared to figures from both the City of Cambridge and online data from consulting firms.

Other students on the Cost of

Living subcommittee were Randi Cabezas G, Javier Sanchez G, Ellan Spero G, and co-chair Maokai Lin G.

After analyzing the data, the Cost of Living team made recommendations that were presented to MIT’s Academic Council, which consists of all the Deans from the Institute’s schools, as well as the senior leadership of the university.

In addition to significant collaboration from Dean for Graduate Edu-

cation Christine Ortiz, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo and Peter Cummings from the Division of Student Life, the project also listed Jagruti Patel, Greg Harris, John Daries, and Lydia Snover from Institution Research as having made significant contributions. The changes to the stipend were announced April 6, 2012 by Ortiz and Claude Canizares, Vice President for Research and Associate Provost.



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

Last night the Great Dome was bathed in blue light for the end of National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Awareness Month, recognized in April by the United States, has been celebrated since the 1970s. This month of awareness serves as an opportunity to educate the public about autism and the issues in the community.



MIT IDEAS

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CELEBRATION

THURSDAY MAY 3

Meet teams at 6:00PM

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32-123

Come celebrate the 37 innovative service projects entered this year! Joi Ito will kick off the celebration. Desserts to follow.



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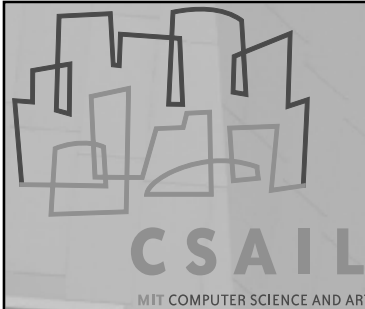
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shass.mit.edu/undergraduate/minors



Leslie G. Valiant
Harvard University

2011-2012 Dertouzos Lecture Series

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2012
Venue: MIT Stata Center, Building 32-123/Kirsch Auditorium
Time: 4:00PM (refreshments at 3:45PM)


A Computational Theory of Cortex and Hippocampus

Abstract: The brain performs many kinds of computation for which it is challenging to hypothesize any mechanism that does not contradict the evidence. In particular, over a lifetime the brain performs a large number of individual cognitive, most having some dependence on past experience and also long-term effects. It is difficult to reconcile such large scale capabilities, even in principle, with the known resource constraints on cortex, such as low connectivity and low average synaptic strength. Here we shall describe model neural circuits and associated algorithms that respect the brain’s most basic resource constraints and support the execution of large numbers of cognitive actions. These circuits simultaneously support a suite of four basic kinds of task that each requires some circuit modification: memory allocation, association, supervised memorization, and inductive learning of threshold functions. The capacity of these circuits is established via experiments in which sequences of thousands of such actions are simulated by computer, and the circuits created tested for the subsequent efficacy of these actions. Hierarchical memory allocation to arbitrary depth has the added requirement that a stable number of neurons be assigned to memories at every level. We give a mechanism for this that can be realized in a shallow feedforward network. We suggest that in the brain it is the hippocampus that performs this stable memory allocation.

Leslie Valiant was educated at King’s College, Cambridge; Imperial College, London; and at Warwick University where he received his Ph.D. in computer science in 1974. He is currently T. Jefferson Coolidge Professor of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University, where he has taught since 1982. Before coming to Harvard he had taught at Carnegie Mellon University, Leeds University and the University of Edinburgh. His work has ranged over several areas of theoretical computer science, particularly complexity theory, computational learning, and parallel computation. He also has interests in computational neuroscience, evolution and artificial intelligence. He received the Nevanlinna Prize at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1986, the Knuth Award in 1997, the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science EATCS Award in 2008, and the 2010 A. M. Turing Award. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (London) and a member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA).

Host: Anant Agarwal, CSAIL

For more information: www.csail.mit.edu or 617.253.0145



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Technology

1 10

-



[4]
Fading...maybe
a doodle will
help

[2] perfect essay notes

$$\iint \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{A} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\int E dS = - \frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$

$$\iint_B dA = 0$$

$$13d_0 = nZ + mZ, \quad \frac{dZ}{dt}$$

[5] Only the essentials now

[10] Drool...

[8] Hieroglyphs

$$\frac{E}{B} = \frac{W}{K} = C$$

?
read chapter later!

[1] Heard "on quiz"

Solution, page 6

- 1 Spelling practice?
- 8 Sign of authority
- 15 Mechanics concept
- 16 Syrupy concoction
- 17 Unit of power
- 18 Stuff
- 19 "___ not to send peace, but
a sword": Matthew 10
- 20 Miss
- 22 Land's end
- 23 "I think we should"
- 24 NJ army outpost
- 26 Result of a good pitch
- 27 Medical specialty
- 28 Scram
- 30 Vet, for one
- 31 Reputation
- 33 Drain
- 35 US capital before
Philadelphia
- 36 Prefix like a-
- 37 Annoy
- 41 Something impressive, or
not at all impressive
- 45 Shaver

46 Metaphors for fright
48 Through
49 Maintain
51 Don't go
52 Put together
53 Try to bite
55 Shade
56 Exclamation after a
revelation
57 Country quarters
59 "Father of the CIA"
61 Sophocles play
62 Where some old trails
ended
63 Was a scourge
64 Variety.com stats

- 1 Animal analogies, often
- 2 Words over a 2012 Union
Shield
- 3 Aegean Rally, for one
- 4 Stuffs
- 5 Major conclusion
- 6 #1 tourist city in the
Southern Hemisphere

7 Sight from Shanghai
8 1948 literature Nobelist
9 Days ____
10 Scrubbed
11 Freight haulers
12 Radar detection
13 2011 Medal of Freedom
 awardee
14 Set up differently
21 Home deconstruction tool
24 One of the oldest forms of
 dress
25 Time Warner Cable
 competitor
28 Trade-show attendee
29 Fairy-tale stock characters
32 17 Across basis of
 comparison
34 Keyboard key
37 Ricocheted
38 They're filled at the market
39 Took on
40 Thunder, e.g.
41 Follow carefully
42 Unfolds
43 What fighters call home

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								16						
17								18						
19						20	21			22				
23					24				25		26			
27				28						29		30		
31			32					33			34			
			35					36						
37	38	39				40		41				42	43	44
45				46			47					48		
49			50		51						52			
53				54		55				56				
57					58			59	60					
61								62						
63								64						

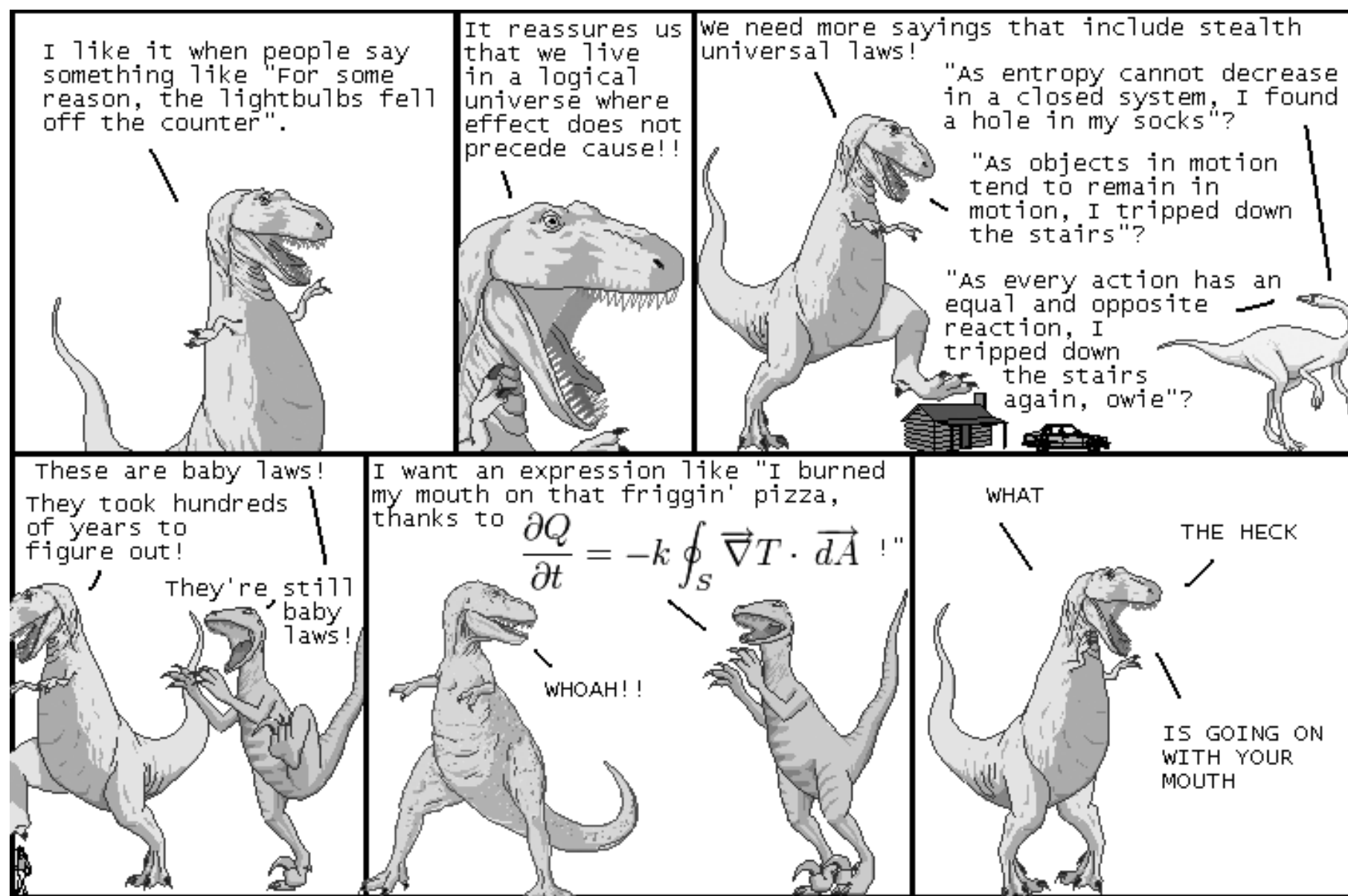
44 Evinces displeasure with
47 Car-bumper protector
50 Vigilant guard
52 Has graceful continuity
54 Cheery send-off

56 Cut __ (deplete)
58 It means "Get away from
me!"
60 "__ Song" (Taylor Swift
single)

```
import new_skills

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python

if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
```


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Sudoku

Solution, page 15

1					4	3		
	2					4	9	
3		4	7		2			
	3		2	8			4	
		7				6		
	4			5	6		8	
			6		8	9		1
	1	9					6	
		8	1					4

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 15

4x	108x		3-	2-	
	3			9+	
4x		4	30x		
3		60x		11+	10+
20+		2x			
					1

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

MENS ET TENEBRAE

The nuts and bolts of getting help

A beginner’s guide to mental health treatment

By Grace Taylor

It seems that at MIT, toughness is valued above almost all else. We take pride in stretching ourselves thin, whether taking an absurd number of classes, pulling multiple all-nighters, or doing well in a class we never actually attend. With our workloads, time is precious. When we’re tired, sick, or in a bad mood — we learn to cope. Time and time again, I’ve seen my friends and classmates apply this attitude to their discontent, loneliness, or depression. I don’t know if they’re not familiar with the kind of help available, or if they’re just hesitant to seek it. Personally, it’s hard for me to empathize with that mindset, because I’ve been depressed my whole life. I never thought there was something wrong with me until I went on medication, and my life improved dramatically. I feel very lucky that this took place before I tried to drink from MIT’s firehose. I can’t imagine how hard it is to come face to face with depression, anxiety, or anything of the sort for the first time while trying to handle MIT.

The basics of mental health

In light of my experience with mental health treatment, I’d like to offer a student perspective about different options and what to expect. Let’s start with the basics. Most forms of mental health treatment fall into two categories: psychotherapy or psychopharmacology.

Psychotherapy covers many different approaches and can be performed by psychiatrists, psychologists, and various types of counselors and social workers. You might picture a person lying on a little couch talking about his or her feelings as a doctor takes notes, but that setup is to psychotherapy what the Model T is to cars — just the beginning. There are hundreds of different schools of thought under the heading of psychotherapy that I know very little about, from group therapy, to hypnotherapy, to art therapy, and so on. In its most basic form, though, psychotherapy is spoken conversation between the therapist and the client, with the goal of trying to improve the client’s emotional life.

I’ve undergone psychotherapy with a psychiatrist and a psychologist at different points in my life. The first guy even had one of those little couches, although at the age of 11, I took myself too seriously to actually

lie on it.

These days, my therapist and I talk for 50 minutes once a week, typically about my past, how I’m feeling about different aspects of my life, and trends in my reactions to various situations. I’ve been in therapy for almost 10 years, and I have no idea how it works. I’m somewhat troubled by this fact, and as MIT students, you guys might be too. Some people spend their time in therapy identifying problems and then developing solutions for them, but I mostly just monologue. It doesn’t make sense that this has the ability to make me feel calmer, more in control, and less depressed. But, at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter if it makes sense. It works.

Next, there’s psychopharmacology, which is the practice of prescribing medication to treat various psychiatric conditions. Psychopharm is necessarily performed by a medical doctor or nurse clinician. From what I can tell, it’s a pretty tricky business, because there’s no way to identify the mechanism that might be causing a particular person’s problem. These days, psychiatric conditions are identified largely by symptom, not etiology. A drug like Prozac might work excellently for me but have no effect for someone with my exact presentation. Sometimes it seems like your doctor is playing pin-the-tail-on-the-psych-disorder, completely blind to the ac-

I can’t imagine how hard it is to come face to face with depression, anxiety, or anything of the sort for the first time while trying to handle MIT.

tual biology going on in your head.

I’ve seen three different people for psychopharmacology over the past eight years, and it’s the same drill every time. First appointment: you meet your doctor, tell them the abridged version of your life story, explain what problems have led you into their office on that particular day, and then make a treatment decision. This is approximately a 45-minute process. I’m sure a great deal of subtlety and tact goes into these initial meetings, and that psychiatrists would be shaking their heads at my dumbed down version of their lives’ work. That’s the gist of it from my end, though. After that, you come in for follow-up meetings, which are shorter, since you just have to get them up to speed about how you’ve been feeling since your last visit, and then

discuss your plan for treatment. I had one psychiatrist in particular who was exceptionally speedy with these follow-up meetings. My all-time record was seven minutes.

I mention the duration of these meetings because of how it relates to the cost. Both psychotherapy and psychopharm can be insanely expensive. If you are seeing a psychiatrist who is not covered by your insurance, you can drop hundreds of dollars on a 15-minute appointment. It’s a non-starter for the vast majority of the population. In most cases, however, you should be able to get help without paying the sticker price.

Finding a provider

This brings us to your choice of provider. In terms of price, MIT Medical is very appealing. Visits to Mental Health and Counseling are free for registered MIT students. They offer psychopharmacology and a range of types of psychotherapy, all with no co-pay. This is a huge deal. Besides that, they’re right on campus, the providers understand the plight of the MIT student, and they’re familiar with great resources like Student Support Services. I’ve been very satisfied going to Medical for psychopharmacology for a while now.

Some people do choose to see outside

examined by a psychiatrist. If that psychiatrist deems the person unfit to look after themselves because of mental illness or at risk of harming themselves or others, that person may be hospitalized. This is often referred to as a “Section 12,” because of specific part of Massachusetts legislature that describes it. According to Alan Siegel, Chief of MIT Mental Health Service, 2,316 students have visited Mental Health and Counseling this year for a total of 12,955 visits. Approximately 45 percent of these students were undergraduates. Since July 1, 25 undergraduates and eight graduate students have been hospitalized for reasons relating to mental health. This includes students who voluntarily admitted themselves to the hospital, those who were sent by outside providers, and those who were sent from MIT Medical. Thirteen of the 25 hospitalized undergraduates and five of the eight graduate students have since returned to their studies.

Now, I’m sure that Section 12s have saved lives, and in other cases, they weren’t the best course of action. Some of you who are worried about this possibility may choose to avoid MIT Medical all together. If you’re worried about being misunderstood, my advice would be the opposite — come earlier, come more frequently, and develop a relationship with a provider there.

I have a final word to the wise. If you decide to try psychotherapy or psychopharm for the first time, and you feel like you don’t get along with the provider — find a new one. You’re not going to keep up with anything that involves sitting in a small room with a person you dislike. Getting help involves a high barrier to entry for lots of people, so you’re doing yourself a huge disservice if you give up on it after one try with one person. Please give yourself the best possible chance of getting better.

For more information on costs and insurance outside of MIT Medical, visit: <http://medweb.mit.edu/mental-health/mh-costs.html>.
For more information on hospitalization, visit: <http://medweb.mit.edu/mentalhealth/mh-questions.html>.
To make an appointment at MIT Mental Health or to get a reference to an outside provider, call 617-253-2916 during business hours.

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EVENTS	MAY 1 – MAY 7
TUESDAY	
(4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) How Can We Feed a Growing World and Sustain the Planet? Talk by Professor Jonathan Foley — E51-115	
(6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Digital Media SIG Event: In-Store Shopping Goes Mobile, panel on mobile phones in retail stores— E51-149	
WEDNESDAY	
(5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) MISTI Foreign film night: <i>Pan’s Labyrinth</i> — 4-237	
(9:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) Egyptian Cultural Night — NW86	
THURSDAY	
(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Renee Green: <i>Endless Dreams and Time-Based Streams</i> , book signing and film screening	
FRIDAY	
(12:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) UNBOUND: Speculations on the Future of the Book — E15-070	
(3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) 10th annual Prokopoff violin music concert — 14E-109	
SATURDAY	
(6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) <i>American Teacher</i> screening and discussion — NW86-161	
SUNDAY	
(1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Eastgate Garden Party — E55	
(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) MITHAS Spring Series presents Kumaresh & Jayanthi, Carnatic violin and veena — E51 Wong Auditorium	
MONDAY	
(4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Starr Forum: Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis — E62-262	
(4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) International Development Career Fair — 10-105	
Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu .	

Men’s tennis beats Springfield College

Wins 5-0 in semifinal match of NEWMAC tourney: 14-4 overall

By Phil Hess
DAPER STAFF

MIT took the first step towards defending its New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference Men’s Tennis title with a 5-0 win over Springfield College today in a semifinal match of the 2012 NEWMAC Tournament. MIT improved to 14-4 with the victory while Springfield fell to 8-8 on the season.

MIT took control of the match early on with wins in all three doubles matches.

MIT took control of the match early on with wins in all three doubles matches. The Engineers’ No. 3 team of seniors Robert W. Wheeler

and Biafra O. Ahanonu scored the first point of the day, taking an 8-0 win over Springfield senior Zach O’Leary and sophomore Joe Giannelli (Watertown, Conn.). At No. 2, the MIT pairing of Curtis L. Wu ’14 and Larry Pang ’13 won 8-4 over Springfield. MIT made it a clean sweep in a spirited No. 1 doubles match where the team of Matthew T. Skalak ’13 and Edwin M. Zhang ’14 defeated the Springfield team of freshman Kyle Mersereau and junior Benjamin Burnap, 8-5.

Needing just two points to win the match, the Engineers got them in the first two singles matches, to take the win. At No. 4, junior Tymor C. Hamamasy downed Nickerson, 6-3, 6-1, to put the Engineers up 4-0. Zhang then clinched the match for MIT, defeating Mersereau by the same 6-3, 6-1 score. With the outcome of the match determined, the final four singles contests were not finished.

Solution to Sudoku
from page 7

1	8	6	5	9	4	3	7	2
7	2	5	8	1	3	4	9	6
3	9	4	7	6	2	8	1	5
6	3	1	2	8	7	5	4	9
8	5	7	9	4	1	6	2	3
9	4	2	3	5	6	1	8	7
4	7	3	6	2	8	9	5	1
2	1	9	4	3	5	7	6	8
5	6	8	1	7	9	2	3	4

Solution to Techdoku
from page 7

1	6	3	5	4	2
4	3	6	2	1	5
2	1	4	6	5	3
3	2	5	1	6	4
5	4	1	3	2	6
6	5	2	4	3	1

MIT ASME General Body Meeting

Tuesday May 1st
7:00-8:00
5-217



Wonder what ASME is?
Do you want to become involved with ASME?
Have ideas to improve Course 2 student life?
Want to be involved with the ASME District A Conference planning committee?
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Sunday, May 13, May 20, and May 27
12:00pm - 4:00pm

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Wins intercollegiate club competition in UT

Having just won five out of their six meets, the MIT Women's Gymnastics team was fully confident and prepared to enter the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs' meet in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meet was at the Salt Lake City Convention Center, April 19-21, and over 50 gymnastics clubs from the United States entered the competition. MIT decidedly won the competition with 149.25 points overall.

The weekend began with the preliminary competition on Thursday. An overall team score of 145.8 allowed the team to advance

The team also had some fun bonding time during the weekend since they did not have any competitions on Friday and got the chance to explore around the beautiful Salt Lake City and Park City. Saturday, however, it was time to showcase all of the hard work the girls had put in throughout the season.

The team definitely dominated the meet, scoring 149.25 overall. MIT placed first in the women's competition, beating out the sec-

ond place team, Penn State, by 4.7 points. MIT also took first on vault, with a tie from Sharpe and Kuraman, and first, second, and seventh on bars (Sharpe, Kuraman and Sanneman, respectively). By no surprise, the team also took first and fifth on beam (Kuraman and Sanneman, respectively), second and fourth on floor (Sharpe and Kuraman, respectively), and first, second, and sixth in the all-around (Kuraman, Sharpe, and Sanneman, respectively). Each girl brought her strength to the competition and contributed to a great meet. Kuraman scored a 38.525 all-around, setting a new record for MIT.

In reflecting on this past season, Ginacelli expressed, "I couldn't be happier or more proud of the way our team came together and really shined on the national stage," he said. "We're looking forward to another successful year next year."



Lindsay M. Sanneman '14 performs a back handspring on the beam.

A photograph of a woman in a yellow t-shirt and a floral-patterned apron holding a soccer ball. She is being tackled from behind by a woman in a black dress. They are on a grassy field, and other people are blurred in the background.



TIFFANY IRA HUANG—THE TECH

(Top) Steph Sallum '12 passes to a teammate during the 5th Annual Prom Dress Rugby Tournament on April 28 at Briggs' Field. (Bottom) Sophie Lee '12 tackles a Brandeis player at the same event. This event provides an interesting feminine twist on a traditionally rough sport and, in its fifth incarnation, drew teams from many surrounding schools.

Wednesday, May 2

Baseball vs. Rhode Island College

4 p.m., Briggs Field



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